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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION MEMORANDUM



PROBABLE DUAL ROAD
NETWORK UNDER
CONSTRUCTION
LAOS

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PROBABLE DUAL ROAD NETWORK UNDER CONSTRUCTION, LAOS

25X1D

A probable dual road network is nearing completion in the Laotian Panhandle, according to photography of [REDACTED]. Three road segments currently under construction will connect with previously existing alternates and bypasses to provide a dual system for at least 80 percent of the distance between Sepone and Chavane.

The new construction parallels segments of Routes 92, 96, and 914 at distances up to 3 nautical miles (Figure 1). While previously constructed segments could generally be explained as chokepoint bypasses or more desirable alternates, the new construction does not appear to fall into either of these categories. The roads do not bypass segments which have been subjected to repeated air strikes and there are no discernible gains in distance, gradient, or concealment (Figure 2).

Although a few of the supplementary segments are in disuse, the roadbeds are intact and could be made serviceable with a minimum of preparation. Together with those segments currently in use or under construction, these could provide a dual road network through the central portion of the Laotian Panhandle.

NPIC Project 170002NG

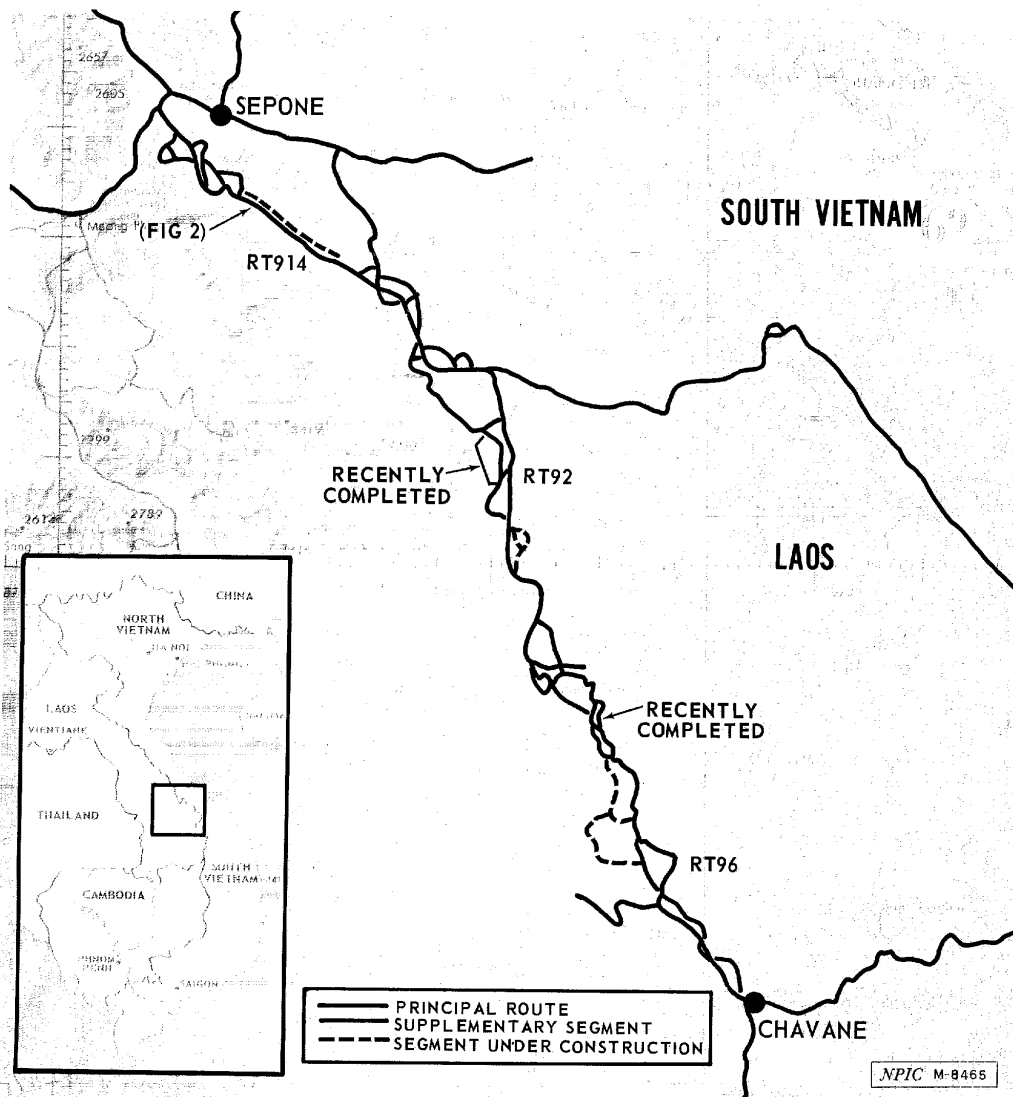


FIGURE 1. ROAD NETWORK UNDER CONSTRUCTION, LAOS

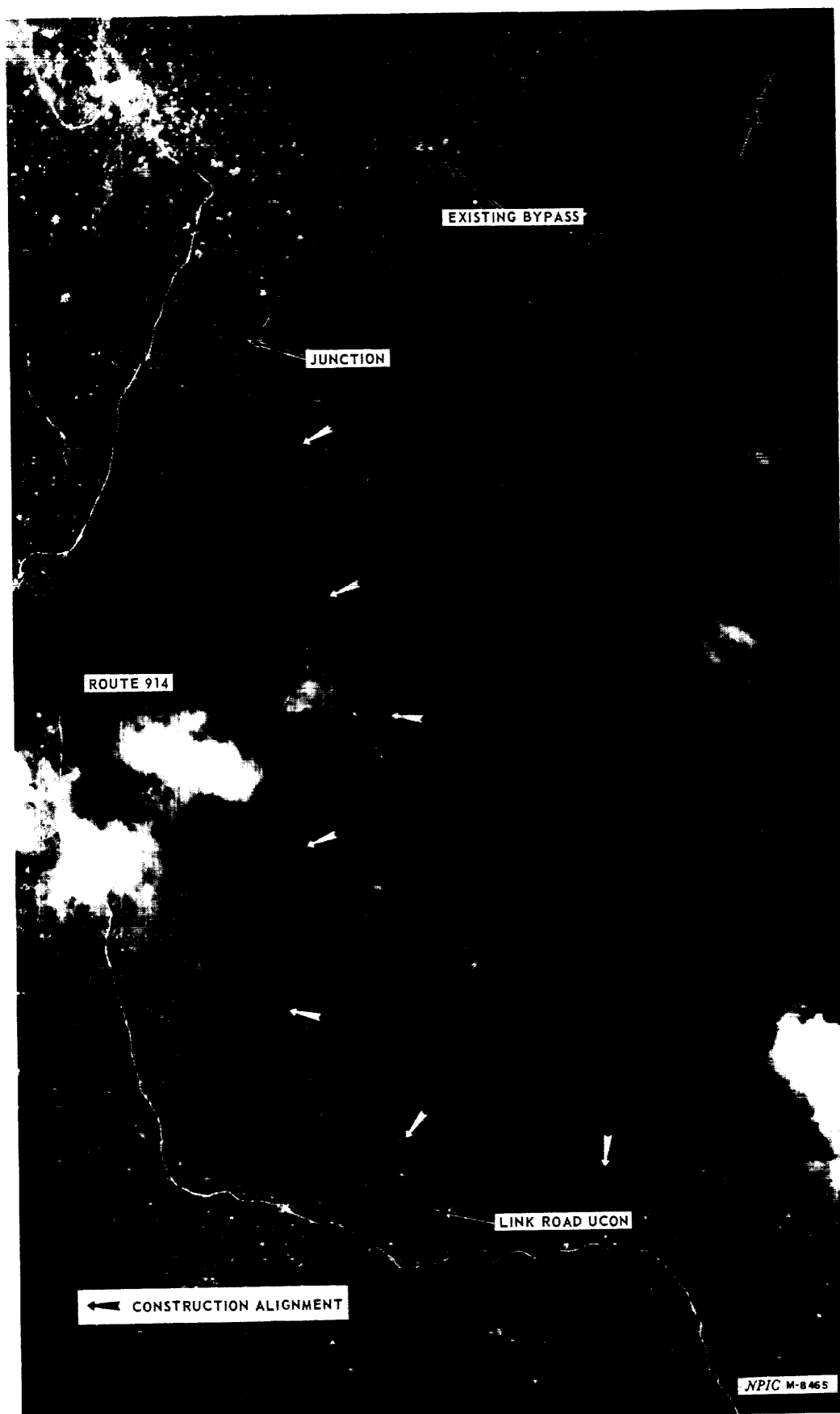


FIGURE 2. ROAD SEGMENT UNDER CONSTRUCTION, LAOS

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